



IRVINGTON

Village News

<http://www.irvingtonny.gov>
e-mail: office@irvingtonny.gov



Winter 2004

Dear Neighbors:

A LOOK BACK AT 2003. It's hard to believe that another year has gone by, and it's time again time for my annual "look back" report. The year 2003 was of major accomplishments, significant progress and improved services for Irvington. Over the years, Irvington residents have told their elected officials that their number one priority is to preserve the existing character and the quality of life in Irvington. In 2003 we took some giant steps towards achieving those goals. With the help of our Land Use Committee, headed by residents Caroline Niemczyk and Lou Lustenberger, your Board of Trustees (BOT) approved a Comprehensive (Master) Plan for Irvington as a guideline for the future growth of our community. The BOT then adopted over a dozen new laws to implement the recommendations of the plan, including new zoning laws that restrict and limit development thereby preserving open space, wetland and water courses protection legislation, increased buffer zones along roadways, increased protection for historic stonewalls, the establishment of a parks and recreation zone, restrictions on out of scale buildings, the protection of Hudson River views, limits on the height of buildings, and the elimination of industrial zoning.

On December 19, 2003 the Village closed on the acquisition of the Westwood Property in the northeast quadrant of the Village, the property will be conjoined with other Village and Westchester County preserved lands to become a 340 acre nature preserve, with a nature center housed on it, trails throughout it, and areas for viewing indigenous wildlife and vegetation. The acquisition, which was the number one priority of our Open Space Advisory Committee, chaired by resident Jan Blaire, came about via a partnership developed by the Village that included as funding sources Westchester County, the State of New York, Scenic Hudson, the Open Space Institute, the Ambrose Monell Foundation, private funds contributed by Village residents and the Village. The nature preserve will be one of the largest undeveloped open space preserves south of I-287 in Westchester.

In its first full year of unrestricted activity, Scenic Hudson Park was booming with activity, and we saw the construction of a kayak ramp, and a basketball court funded in part by friends of resident Bob Speisman who died in the 9/11/01 attacks. Our Community Advisory Board, now comprised of almost 80 residents (including students) which focuses on improving the quality of life for youth in our community, was very active in 2003, under the leadership of Trustee Isabel Milano. The McVickar house, currently under rehabilitation and reconstruction near the top of Main Street, is finally in the process of becoming the home of the Irvington Historical Society. Our Department of Public Works and our Police Department are experiencing significant improvements under the leadership of new Department Heads Greg Nilsson, Superintendent of Public Works and Chief of Police Louis Grieco. On September 11, 2003, in a moving ceremony, the Village dedicated impressive monuments to the victims and heroes of 9/11/01 at the southern end of Scenic Hudson Park. The monuments were funded in part by donations

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*Mayor Dennis Flood welcomes Irvington's
Newest Trustee Jonathan Siegel*

Polling Location Changed

Please be advised voters in the 79th Election District in Irvington will no longer vote at the Ardsley-on-Hudson Railroad Station. The polling place has been permanently changed to Village Hall, 85 Main Street.

The Village Hall is handicapped accessible, and there is much more room available than there was at the railroad station. Since there are two election districts at this location, be sure to go to the correct table - the one marked E. D. #79.

This will remain your polling place for all primary, general, and Village elections.

The 79th Election District generally covers the Southeast quadrant of the Village including most areas South of Harriman Road and East of Broadway. However, if you are unsure of exactly which election district you reside in, call the Village Clerk's office at 591-7070.



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The 2004 Sanitation and Recycling Schedules were mailed to all residents and businesses in the Village. There have been some major changes in our expanding Recycling Program. Please review the entire schedule and pay special attention to the "Rules and Regulations". If you did not receive a 2004 Schedule, or have any questions you may contact The DPW by phone at 591-6044 or by e-mail at gnilsson@IrvingtonNY.gov. The 2004 Schedule is also available for download from the Village website.

Recycling Reminder: Glass, metal and plastic bottles and cans (commingled) must not be placed in paper or plastic bags. Commingled recycling must be placed in a recycling bin or a suitable container such as a plastic tub or an uncovered garbage can labeled recycling. Newspapers etc. may be tied or placed in paper bags or in a recycling bin. Paper and metal may not be mixed. Recycling that is put out in plastic bags will not be picked up.

Styrofoam and bubble plastic packing material is not recyclable. It should be disposed of with regular garbage. Please remove all such material from any cardboard boxes to be put out for recycling pick-up.

The Village of Irvington provides recycling bins free of charge to residents. If you are in need of a recycling bin or have any questions concerning the recycling program please call 591-6044 or e-mail gnilsson@IrvingtonNY.gov

The Village of Irvington Department of Public Works is very proud of our Recycling Program. Of the 43 municipalities reporting solid waste collection to Westchester County for the year 2002, Irvington was # 5 on list reporting 68% of our solid waste collected as recycled. With public awareness and cooperation we can look forward to increasing that percentage in the future.

Winter Storm Procedures

One of the most important responsibilities and challenging tasks facing the Department of Public Works during the winter season is keeping the Village roadways and sidewalks safe and accessible during and after a winter storm. This is done in two phases. Phase one is the plowing and salting of all Village roads and sidewalks. Phase two is snow removal. We realize it is frustrating to be "plowed in" by a Village snowplow after clearing your driveway or walkway. Unfortunately this cannot be helped. It is the DPW's responsibility to clear all Village roadways and keep them accessible especially for our Emergency Services. When clearing your driveway or walkway after you have been "plowed in" pile the snow on your own property. Do not throw it back into the road as it reacts with the salt, then freezes up and creates a dangerous icing condition. As for snow removal, please be patient. DPW must first remove snow from Broadway, Main Street and all major roads; we then concentrate on the side streets and outlying areas. Your cooperation during storms will be appreciated.

At The Library

Have you visited the Library Program Room lately? Right now you can see some wonderful photographs by the Color Camera Club of Westchester. Later in the year there will be exhibits by local artists Vincent Saaverdre and Janet Lippmann. Jerri Riggs, who showed her wonderful quilts last year, is returning with an entire group of quilters to bring us a two month long show called Fiber Revolutions.

We welcome and encourage local artists. If you would like to exhibit your work, please call Agnes Sinko at the Library for our policy and application form.

The Irvington Library is located at 12 South Astor Street. Our phone number is 591-7840. Our website is www.irvingtonlibrary.org.

Dear Neighbors: *continued from page 1*

from the Irvington Volunteer Fire Department, the Irvington Police Benevolent Association, and the Irvington Volunteer Ambulance Corps. In 2003 the Village adopted a law governing the location of wireless telecommunication facilities, renegotiated a mutually favorable labor agreement with the Irvington Police Department, obtained significant outside fundings from our grants acquisition program, and put in place a stormwater management plan intended to protect our brooks, wetlands, and the Hudson River from surface pollutants. We have made improvements within our enhanced public information and communications program with regularly scheduled newsletters, a more informative website, and an e-mail newsletter that now goes to several hundred residents (sign on at www.irvingtonny.gov). Several other improvements in our administrative functions and municipal services delivery were achieved by our outstanding Village staff. All in all it was a good year for Irvington, and we look forward to continued accomplishments, progress, and improved services in 2004.

Dennis P. Flood, Mayor

Crossing The Street

One of the most important and least understood changes to the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law during the year 2003 can be found in the section which applies to a pedestrian's right of way in a crosswalk. Previously, motorists were required to yield the right of way to a pedestrian in a crosswalk, only when they were on the half of the roadway that the motorist was traveling in. It was apparent that a potential for ambiguity and uncertainty on both the part of the motorist and pedestrian existed.

Effective January 19, 2003, the law was amended. The stipulation that required a pedestrian to be in the motorist's half of the roadway was removed. Simply stated, motorists must now yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.

Like other traffic safety devices, crosswalks are present for a reason. They alert motorists to the possibility that pedestrians may be present; while also guiding pedestrians to the safest place to cross a roadway. Motorists are urged to abide by the law and pedestrians are encouraged to proceed carefully when entering a crosswalk and not cross in the middle of a street. Irvington has been very fortunate in that many years have passed without a traffic accident that has involved serious injuries to a pedestrian. Please help continue this trend. The Irvington Police Department has been and will continue to enforce violations of the crosswalk law when they are observed.





Irvington Town Hall Theater

www.irvingtontheater.com

The year 2004 is going to be a very big one for the Irvington Town Hall Theater! The old dame was very good and her stocking was filled with new house seating for all you wonderful patrons to enjoy. Our most exciting news is that the Mayor and Trustees of the Village of Irvington have accepted a bid for new, comfortable seating – with fixed, upholstered chairs to replace the rapidly-aging folding seats now in use. Our new seating plan will use the Springfield Fixed House Chair – an upholstered Victorian-style beauty with a curved back that will compliment the grand ambiance of our Classic Revival Style Theater. Embellishments include lovely cast iron standards that match the original balcony seating and gracious scrolled wood armrests.

The new orchestra seating – to be installed sometime in April 2004 – will feature a semi-circular design, with staggered seats to improve the sightlines. Thank you to all patrons who made donations to the Irvington Town Hall Theater, Inc. Seating Fund over the years. To supplement these generous donations, the Village of Irvington has earmarked a \$60,000 payment to help defray some of the total \$84,000 price tag. In addition to comfortable seating, our patrons will soon note many other exciting improvements stemming from the planned renovation of the Irvington Town Hall; the Theater will have a new roof, air conditioning and some changes to the fire whistle. Our stocking was full and we are very excited about these impending improvements.

With the winter solstice behind us, the days are growing longer and the dark nights shorter. We suggest you make your evenings even brighter by attending Irvington Town Hall Theater, because our stage lights will be spotlighting some very special entertainment. Mainstage Entertainment will be bringing major artists **Richie Havens** on March 6th and **Leo Kottke** on April 10. We are very honored to be showcasing talent of this caliber. Those of you, who were lucky enough to attend **The All Star Broadway Holiday Concert**, heard William Michals bring down the house in thunderous applause. His bass-baritone voice is phenomenal! Don't miss his concert on March 20th and a chance to hear this bass-baritone from ***Beauty and the Beast***. His voice was broadcast around the world, when he sang *Let There Be Peace on Earth*, at Ground Zero on December 11, 2001. Also Cagle & Company and Irvington Town Hall Theater, Inc. are co-sponsoring **Smokey Joe's Café** in April. Irvington Town Hall Theater, Inc. will be having an Irvington Theater Party as a fundraiser on April 24th. The inside of River City Grille will become Smokey Joe's Café. Further details for this event are unavailable at print time, but look for a mailing and check the Irvington Town Hall Theater web site for updates. For the budding thespians, Irvington Children's Theater will present **The Little Big Show** in March. There are many more wonderful children's events so peruse our calendar and plan on enlightening them also.

****NEW ADVENTURE PROGRAMS****

Ray & Matt's Excellent Adventure for 9th thru 11th Grade Students

June 25th thru June 30th. 6 day Adventure Trip to Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Western New York.

Adventure Trek II for 9th thru 11th Grades

August 9th thru August 18th. 10 day outdoor adventure trip to Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts.

Parks & Recreation News

Please consider signing up for the Irvington Recreation and Parks Department e-mail list. You'll receive important announcements concerning events and activities. Sign up by sending an email to the following address: RecMail@IrvingtonNY.gov

In addition to our regular programming the Department has added 2 programs for the School Winter Recess.

1. Arts & Crafts - February 17th, 18th & 19th
10:00am to 2:00pm - I.K. Benjamin Community Center,
71 Main Street
K thru 5th Grades, Instructor: Heather Bancroft
Village Residents \$40.00
School District Residents \$55.00
2. Cartooning & Comics - February 17th, 18th, 19th & 20th
3:00pm to 5:00pm - I.K. Benjamin Community Center
71 Main Street
K thru 5th Grades, Instructor: Dave Elliott
Village Residents \$25.00 per day
School District Residents \$40.00 per day

For any questions regarding these 2 programs contact Maureen DePaoli, Assistant Superintendent.

Youth Baseball & Softball Programs - Registration for the spring will be on-going thru the month of February. There are leagues and programs for girls and boys from pre-k thru 15 years of age. For a program flyer and prices please contact Angela Linsalato, Recreation Assistant.

Summer Plans - There are many things ahead for the summer of 2004. Camp brochures will be available by March 1st.

The Recreation and Parks Department complete Summer Brochure will be available in March. It will include programs, special events and Parks schedules for April thru August. Brochures will be mailed to all homes in the village and will be available thru the village website at www.irvingtonny.gov.



Congresswoman Nita Lowey visits with Irvington Senior Citizens to deliver important news about the new federal prescription drug benefit plan

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the extremely large volume of brush and garden debris left at curbsides this Fall, the Department of Public Works must begin to enforce the rules and regulations established by the Village Board many years ago. The current practice of piling large diameter tree limbs together with garden debris and leaves by many residents and landscapers requires the use of a payloader and dump truck. This process is extremely time consuming resulting in many piles still waiting for pick-up as we begin the new year. In an effort to have all leaves and garden debris removed from curbside by the end of the Fall and **before** the snow begins to fall, the Department of Public Works will not pick up garden debris and/or brush unless the existing rules and regulations are followed. Please review your sanitation schedule or visit the Village web site for specific rules and regulations. **Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.**

Congratulations...On Your Anniversary of Service Department Of Public Works

Michael Colantuono	30 Years
Kevin Smith	20 Years
David Colucci	15 Years
Marco Parada	15 Years
Kenneth Mastropietro	5 Years

Recreation Department

Joan Armstrong	5 Years
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Village Office

Stephen McCabe	15 Years
Florence Costello	15 Years
Ana Maria Z. Kusiak	10 Years

Police Department

John Fox	20 Years
Peter Carelli	15 Years
Edmund Vize	15 Years
Michael Morano	10 Years
Mia Norton	10 Years

***Remember To Vote
Village Elections
March 16, 2004***

IrvingtonVillage News

Our thanks to all those who have contributed to this publication
591-7070

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591-8225

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